

# Langdon Annual Parish Meeting

**Monday 24th May, 7.30 p.m.**

**East Langdon Parish Hall**

The parish is obliged to hold an annual meeting at which local residents can receive reports and ask questions of the parish council. This is an informal community event where local organisations are invited to make presentations and meet with other parishioners.

Normally we invite a guest speaker for the evening but due to Covid-19 restrictions only recently being relaxed there has not been time to book a speaker. Please note that social distancing and the wearing of masks will be required. The meeting will be limited to a maximum of 25 people to ensure adequate social distancing.

Contact the parish clerk on 853527 or Chris Shaw (Chairman) on 07971 579096.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting**
- 2. Matters arising**
- 3. Chairman's Report**
- 4. Reports from Village Organisations**

East Langdon Parish Hall

West Langdon Village Hall

Langdon Playing Field Association

Langdon Primary School

East Langdon Church

West Langdon Church

The Langdon Short Mat Bowls Club

East Langdon Cricket Club

- 5. Questions from the public**

- 6. Refreshments**

Signed .....

Clerk to Langdon Parish Council

## Chairman's Report Langdon Parish Council

### Langdon Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2012

At the risk of stating the obvious, 2020 was a year the likes of which we have not experienced before. The outbreak of the Coronavirus pandemic disrupted many aspects of our lives and some may not return to the ways of pre March 2020. At the same time the UK was in the Brexit transition period that ended on 31 December 2020 and there were warnings of disruption to food supplies, intercontinental freight movements and nearer to home, major traffic congestion in and around the approaches to Kent and Dover Port.

Clearly some parts of the UK were and still are impacted by Covid-19 variants but fortunately Kent seems to have coped very well, thanks to the collective planning and service provision by The Government, The NHS, KCC and DDC contingency planning, plus the various community organisations and self-help groups who rose to the challenges ahead.

Within the parish, particularly during the Covid lockdown restrictions, it was very noticeable that more people were at home, either having been furloughed or working remotely. Personally I saw more residents out on their daily exercise walks, in the lanes and on the footpaths. This networking, together with the increase in social media exchanges, gave a very encouraging picture of Langdon's community spirit. Local businesses stepped in to supply home delivery and food take-away services to isolation residents, and neighbours looked out for each other. Some residents continued to socialise following the Thursday evening "Clap for the NHS" initiative and there have been litter-picking patrols, Easter Egg hunts and Friday evening drinks get-togethers, all within the Covid guidelines!

The parish council continued to meet monthly throughout 2020, only two meetings in March and August being in the hall, the rest being by Zoom remote sessions. The meetings were joined by a few members of the public and we got through the council business but sometimes the quality of the Internet connection tested our patience. Hopefully as the Covid-19 spread is controlled, we can return to the normal physical meetings.

By way of a summary of the parish council's business, most monthly agendas show regular items such as:

**Planning:** 14 applications considered, compared to 11 in 2019. Mostly house extensions but Solton Manor featured on several applications as the business operation was scrutinised.

**New District Local Plan:** The parish council has responded to the first round of consultations, having invited local residents to share their comments.

**Street Lighting:** On-going maintenance repair schedules in dispute between DDC and the contractor UK Power Networks;

**East Langdon Road Flooding and Village Pond:** KCC Highways completed a long-awaited soakaway project at the village green and since January the Langdon Lagoon has not been seen. **The village pond**, being the responsibility of the Church Farm Mews residents, remains silted up and the usual wildlife is not to be seen there. Hopefully a clearance programme will be drawn up to restore the pond to its former healthy state.

**Traffic Calming:** There are frequent reports of traffic exceeding the local speed limits and using our narrow lanes as a cut-through route between the A258 and the A2. There have been several collision incidents and near misses reported in our country lanes. Traffic flow data will be captured to show the extent of the problem.

**Street Parking at Martin Mill:** Since lockdown, fewer commuter cars are being parked in Station Road. Assuming Covid restriction are lifted then discussions will be resumed with southeastern management to find a solution to the on-street parking that has caused so much inconvenience to local residents.

**Broadband Services:** As mentioned earlier, the speed and reliability of Internet services has been an issue in our rural location. Working from Home and an increase in on-line entertainment has highlighted the need to upgrade the rural connectivity with fibre routes and faster data speeds.

**Finance and Annual Budget:** The annual parish precept remains at £14,770 for 2021 as it was in 2020. The council budget has increased from £16,686 to £21,950, the shortfall being taken from reserve funds.

**Future Projects:**

Neighbourhood Plan, Environmental Projects, Greener Energy, Parish Road Management Plan.

Finally – my thanks go to everyone who is striving to make Langdon a great place to live,- our residents, our parish councillors and clerk, KCC and Dover District Councillors, Community Warden and our new PCSO. Thank you.

Chris Shaw  
Chairman, Langdon Parish Council

## **East Langdon Parish Hall Annual Report for 2020**

Since the start of the financial year 2020, the parish hall has been subject to coronavirus restriction measures and remained closed to the usual hiring activities until very recently. . Only the twice weekly post office counter service has kept running as it is considered an essential service.

The hall would have been in financial difficulty with little income and the on-going operational costs. Fortunately the hall has been eligible for a Government Business Support Grant which is administered by Dover District Council. The application was successful and this has kept the accounts in a healthier position to pay the bills during the year.

As current lockdown restrictions begin to ease there has been some interest in hiring the hall again. Provided Covid risk assessment procedures followed there should be a gradual return to community use but ultimately it will be for the public to make their own assessment of the potential risk.

The hall was used as a polling station earlier this month which proved to be a safe environment for the public to use. Careful planning and spacial layout proved that safe social distancing could be maintained within the hall.

Personally I look forward to hosting one of our popular Jazz events again, it's been a long time without some quality live entertainment!

Chris Shaw  
Hall secretary May 2021

## East Langdon Playing Field Report to LANGDON AGM 2021

- *“Plenty of space for our children to run around even if play equipment is busy!”*
- *Really good park. Kids love it, and the child in me lol.*
- *A peaceful place to have a fun family day.*
- *Brilliant park with lots to do for the whole family*
- *Good sized area open to all people good for the whole family.”*

Comments on Facebook indicate the high regard for the play facilities in Langdon.

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The playing field committee is grateful to the continued support by the parish council, in particular the annual grants for the Insurance premium, annual safety inspection and the grass cutting contracts. Without this continued support, it would be extremely difficult to maintain such a high quality recreational area,

No fund-raising activities and the only money donated is from the Field Donation box amounting to £75 in 2020 and £62 has been collected so far in 2021.

Earlier this year someone attempted to forcefully open the donation box but due to the robust design by the late Colin Smith, nothing was taken. We continue to remind visitors to show their appreciation of our play areas by making a donation but there is a noticeable drop in income as fewer visitors seem to bring any coinage and we can't take contactless payments!

The volunteer Playing Field Committee is responsible for the management of the Langdon Playing Field and some improvement works were carried during the year, mainly on rubber seat replacements and bearings. At present there is a project to replace two of the wooden picnic benches before the summer school break.

As part of the risk assessment measures, committee members carry out weekly inspections of the equipment and surrounding areas. The reports are used to identify potential issues and feed into a maintenance programme.

Our committee of five volunteers would welcome help from residents to keep the playing field in good order. Please get in touch!



**Langdon  
Primary  
School**

**Langdon Primary School Report to Parish Council**  
**21 May 2021**

The coronavirus pandemic has dominated school operations this year and in effect, this report covers the last two academic years since our usual reporting to the parish council was interrupted last year because of lockdown. Despite the pandemic, the school has continued to function well, numbers of pupils remain high and standards are excellent.

**School Improvement:**

The school was inspected by Ofsted in January 2020. This was a timely inspection, given what happened only a few weeks later and we are pleased with the outcome. The school attained a 'good' grading and the report received is extremely positive. The only action to follow up is to continue to embed the work that we had already started on revising the curriculum to match the new National Curriculum requirements. Since this work had already begun in school it has not been an arduous task to continue this work and hasn't meant that anything new or different needs to be addressed. The full Ofsted report can be viewed on the school website or by following the link:

<https://www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Ofsted-Report-2020.pdf>

**Standards:**

Our last set of data for the end of the Key Stages was also very positive. For pupils at the end of their journey with us, moving onto secondary school, their results in the SATs assessment were extremely high with 50% of pupils achieving the higher 'greater depth' standard in English (reading, writing and grammar, punctuation and spelling) and 75% of pupils achieving a greater depth standard in Mathematics. This is excellent against much lower national averages. The Langdon combined percentage is 38% against the national picture of 11% combined, showing that Langdon pupils achieve highly due to the good teaching they receive. Last year the SATs were cancelled due to the pandemic but our in-school data suggested that the results would be similarly good if the pupils had taken them.

Last year, two thirds of pupils once again entered the grammar school system and other pupils transferred to local schools where

LYNN PAYLOR SUTTON  
HEADTEACHER

Langdon Primary School  
East Langdon  
Dover  
KENT  
CT15 5JQ

Phone: 01304 852600

E-mail:  
lpaylorsutton@langdon.kent.sch.uk

Website:  
www.langdonprimaryschool.co.uk



they will flourish according to their strengths and talents. For the last five years about two thirds to three quarters of pupils are able to transfer to grammar school; this is a high proportion of pupils.

#### Staffing:

Our school continues to have four classes with four teachers and four teaching assistants. Staffing has been stable for the last few years and the team works extremely effectively to support learning and pupil well being. We have a part time teacher who supports learning in Key Stage Two and who also teaches music in our Key Stage Two classes. Her music teaching is second to none and our choir, who have performed in local theatre productions, at local hotels and in singing festivals, are testament to her skill and talents. One of our teachers will temporarily leave us in July to have her first child and we wish her well. A new teacher will be joining us for a year to cover the period of maternity leave.

Our support staff who maintain the grounds, keep the school clean and tidy, operate the office and the finance systems and who run our Breakfast Club are all highly skilled and effective in their roles which helps to keep the school running smoothly and effectively.

Our governors support the work of the school and monitor our effectiveness and our impact. We currently have two vacancies on our governing board and are seeking suitable candidates to fill these roles, according to our audit of skills already in place in the governing board. Anyone who is interested in applying for this role should contact our Clerk to the Governing Body, Sarah Seymour, through the school office.

#### School Roll:

In our last report to the parish council, the school roll was 82 pupils. Currently, we have 93 pupils enrolled at the school and there continues to be a healthy interest in viewing the school and in applications. Ten pupils have been offered places for entry into Year R in September 2021.

#### Attendance and Punctuality:

School attendance is expected to be above 96% in order to gain an Ofsted 'good' grading for attendance. Last academic year we exceeded this percentage and are likely to do so again this year, attendance for Terms 3 and 4, despite the pandemic and the surge of the Kent variant, was in excess of 99%. Punctuality is good.

#### Our Response to the Pandemic:

We closed our doors as we entered lockdown on 23 March 2020, except for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable children. A handful of children attended school during the first lockdown; the majority staying home to work on packs of activities that linked to topics that would have been taught had the children been in school. Staff made regular contact with their pupils and reassured parents by phone or email if needed. About half of the school community returned to school on 8 June 2021 and then everyone in September.

Children returned to school well but staff spent time allowing children to resettlement into school routines and expectations and to re-establish relationships. Initially, time was given with familiar class teachers and in old classes before pupils moved into their new classes for the year. This was highly successful and meant that very few problems, worries, concerns or anxieties resulted - bucking the trends that were widely reported in the press. Safety measures such as thorough handwashing, regular cleaning, rotating and quarantining resources, forward facing desks, the use of plexiglass screens and reminders about social distancing really helped to keep the school safe for staff and pupils. Although there were a number of tests conducted and some self-isolation in the Autumn term, the school only had three confirmed cases (from two families) which were completely contained thanks to our safety measures.



In the second lockdown the school was ahead of the curve in terms of planning for remote learning. Our plan for how we would work in the case of a school closure was posted early on our school website and communicated with parents; and staff had undergone training prior to the decision to close schools in how to work online to teach individuals, groups or whole classes. Pupils had daily lessons, in the same timetabled order as they would have done in class, using high quality video resources or face to face with their teachers. They sent their work to staff as it was completed and staff then marked and fed back to the pupils for example, on how to improve it further or how to extend it or just to give praise. By working this way, we managed to ensure that progress was maintained for most pupils. For one or two, they came back into school in order to ensure that their learning continued to move forward, joining the pupils who had critical worker parents who were taught in class as usual. This focus on keeping the learning moving forward as it would have been without lockdown, meant that the return to school on 8 March 2021 was relatively smooth with very little upset.

Our teachers have picked up the learning and are focused on children reaching end of year targets, despite the closure of classrooms. To support those who may need a bit more help, we have before and after school tuition happening on a daily basis and this is having real impact in how well pupils manage new learning in their usual class lessons. Using the government's 'Covid Catch Up' fund, we are able to offer this additional opportunity for the rest of this academic year and into the Autumn term next year.

As we approach the end of the year we are looking at ways to creatively reinstate events such as sports days, assemblies, trips and visits and whole school performances and are confident that we will find ways so that our pupils will not miss out on the wider curriculum and fun aspect of school whilst staying safe from risk.

#### Future Priorities:

Our priority for the future is to ensure that whatever the national situation that we find ways to continue to ensure that our pupils are safe, happy and learning. There is a huge emphasis on ensuring the well-being of our pupils at all times. In our Ofsted report the inspectors noted that, *'Langdon is a happy school with happy pupils. Pupils like coming to school and are enthusiastic to learn. They have very positive attitudes to all that they do in school.'* I am confident that if Ofsted visited this week, they would see the same thing. Happy, safe, secure pupils learn well and the evidence for this is in our high standards and achievements.

My thanks, as always, goes to the staff and to the governing body of the school, who have done an amazing job under difficult circumstances this year, and who are totally committed to improving the education for each and every individual child. My thanks also go to the children who make the job so easy and are such a delight to teach.

Lynn Paylor Sutton  
Head Teacher

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – LANGDON MAY 2021**

### **REPORT FROM PCC EAST LANGDON – ST AUGUSTINE’S CHURCH**

As with all other organisations, bodies and groups our activities at St Augustine’s have been seriously, if not totally disrupted for the last 12 months. However, following the first lockdown during which we could not be open from early July 2020 the church has been open for services and apart from a short spell we have held our 3 times a month services with congregation present.

We held the Memorial Services at the Green on Remembrance Sunday, Carols on the Green just before Christmas and the annual carol service on the Sunday before Christmas, albeit in a different way.

On March 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 the four parishes that make up St Margaret’s Benefice welcomed our new priest-in-charge, the Reverend Karen (known as Kaz) Reeves and her licence was held at the church at St Margaret’s being conducted by the Bishop of Dover, Rose Hudson-Wilkin.

In the year apart from keeping up with the maintenance of Church and Churchyard we have strengthened and “stood” up a number of leaning and collapsed headstones, updated our sound system, repaired and inspected our overhead lights and below pew heater tubes. We have organised for the external door in the top of the spire to be repaired.

We look forward to returning to fundraising and social events restarting after a gap of a year. Our motto through this pandemic has been “CAN DO”.

Anthony Hyde  
Church Warden